

Abstract

The disclosure concerns a process for removing mercaptans from
5 fluid streams comprising same, especially from hydrocarbon gas
streams, for example natural gas, synthesis gas from heavy oil or
heavy residues or refinery gas, or else from liquid hydrocarbons,
for example LPG (liquefied petroleum gas). The invention
comprises intimately contacting the fluid stream in an absorption
10 or extraction zone with a scrubbing liquor comprising at least
one aliphatic alkanolamine of 2 - 12 carbon atoms, the amount of
wash liquor being supplied to the absorption or extraction zone
being sufficient to remove at least CO₂ and H₂S essentially
completely from the fluid stream, and separating the
15 substantially decontaminated fluid stream and the contaminated
wash liquor and discharging them from the absorption zone. The
substantially complete removal of CO₂ and H₂S is accompanied by
the removal from the gas stream of a very large portion of the
mercaptans as well, without a significant fraction of the
20 hydrocarbon gases dissolving in the wash liquor.

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